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Finance Committee Minutes 03-17-2003

ARLINGTON FINANCE COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING

7:30 PM O'Neill room, community safety building

3/17/03

ATTENDEES:

Janowitz	Feinleib*	O'Riordan*	O'Neill	Mahoney*
DeCoursey*	Connors	Simmons*	Morrisette*	
Tosti*	Foskett*	Deyst*	Ronan*	
Piandes*	Franclemont*	Jones*	Olsen*	
DuBois*	Howard*	Fanning*	Tosi	Kneeland*

* Indicates present

VISITOR: Paul Bayer, Chair Permanent Town Building Committee John Cole

MINUTES of 3/5/03 accepted as corrected. Unanimous

BUDGET: The Chair reviewed the latest expenditure and revenue estimates made by the Town Manager. Several of the figures have been adjusted. According to these estimates the deficit is \$4.5 million smaller.

PEIRCE SCHOOL: Cole stated that this project is complete. No further expenditures are expected. All funds have been expended or encumbered.

BRACKETT SCHOOL: The architect will refund the Town \$49,000 to cover the architect's share of the noise fix. Both Brackett and Peirce can now be submitted to the State for (eventual) audit and reimbursement.

ARTICLE 72 APPROPRIATION/HARDY SCHOOL: A noise issue has been corrected. Since the plans allowed the machinery to be installed as it was, the Town is responsible for part of the cost of the fix. Negotiation continues. The total cost will be \$35,000 to \$55,000. The PTBC has \$20,000 remaining.

VOTED to appropriate from the school bond interest fund \$15,000 to \$35,000, as determined by the PTBC. Unanimous.

ARTICLE 71 DALLIN SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION PROJECT: Cole said that a cost estimate will be available in May, but that the PTBC wants Town Meeting direction on whether to request bond authorization. Since the building size was decreased 5% and construction costs are going down, this cost estimate may be lower than feared. Cole believes bond authorization is not required to insure that Dallin will remain on the State reimbursement list. He was asked to have an estimate of the cost of repairing the school for a few more years of service ready for Town Meeting. These repairs will include a new roof and a wall/floor separation fix. Since reimbursement for Peirce is not expected for many years, the tax rate will have to cover the full cost of the bonds for many years. There are probably insufficient funds in the \$34.5 million debt exclusion to also pay for the full cost of Dallin bonds.

VOTED no action but revisit next year. 14-1.

ARTICLE 68 APPROPRIATION/ PARK CIRCLE FIRE STATION: Cole said the PTBC will complete plans but does not expect to go farther for now. He believes the Board of Selectmen agrees. The Town Manager put this project in the last year of the proposed capital plan. The PTBC did not build the temporary structure at the station.

VOTED no action. Unanimous.

FIXED COSTS-ELECTIONS: DuBois reviewed this budget using a spreadsheet she built. She has worked with the Board of

Selectmen administrator to reduce this budget. A new entry is a police grey bill of \$10,000 per election. It is possible to use constables for this purpose. DuBois's spreadsheet also showed the effect of reducing the number of polling places from 13 to 8. This would reduce the number of police required and perhaps the number of election wardens. She has discussed this idea with the Town Clerk. DuBois was complimented on her work by several members and urged to continue.

VOTED to budget elections at \$57,203 (8 polls with police). Unanimous. An amendment to budget elections at \$45,203 (8 polls with constables) was defeated 5-8.

COMMITTEE: Policy: Leaders of divisions within a department may come the Finance Committee upon mutual agreement with a department head and a Finance Committee Subcommittee.

A final version of the Warrant was provided. Most of the article numbers were changed again. Summary table below updated. Next meeting Wednesday 3/26.

RESERVE FUND BALANCE \$300,000

Peter B. Howard, Secretary

Budget & Article Action Summary

	Date presented	Date of vote	\$	Vote	Art#	Date presented	Date of vote	\$	Vote/ assigned to
1					11	2/19	2/19	bylaw chng	11-2
2					13	2/3	2/3	support	
3					14	2/19		no report	
4					17	2/19		no report	
5					20	2/11	2/11	no report	Unanimous
6					21	2/11	2/11	no report	Unanimous
7					23				Foskett
8					24				
9					25	2/19		no report	
10					26				
11					27				Howard et al

12					30	2/26		info request	
13					31	2/26		info request	
14					32	2/19		no report	
15					33	2/3	postponed		
16					34	2/3	postponed		
17a					37				
17b					38				
17c					39				
17d					41	2/5	info req'd		
17e					42	2/5	info req'd		
17f					43	2/5	info req'd		
19					44				
20					45				
21a					46				
21b					47				
21c					48				
21d					49				
22					50				
23					51				
24					52				
25					53				O'Neill
26					54				
WVS					56				
Rec 3/5					57				Foskett
Rnk					59				De Courcey
COA					60	2/19,26	2/19,26	10%reduct	Unanimous
YS					61	2/19	2/19	no action	Unanimous
					63A	2/19	2/19	2000	8-7
					63B	2/19	2/19	5667	14-1
					63D	2/19	2/19	0	Unanimous
					63E	2/19	2/19	3000	12-2
					63G	3/5	3/5	4500	Unanimous
					64E	2/27	2/26	9813	Unanimous
					65				
					66				
					67	2/5,2/11	2/11	no action	Unanimous
					68	3/17	3/17	no action	Unanimous
					69	2/11	2/11	no action	Unanimous
80					70	2/19	2/19	no action or \$35k w/ OR	12-2
79					71	3/17	3/17	no action	14-1
78				Foskett	72	3/17	3/17	15k to 35k	Unanimous
77				Olsen	73				
76					74				